

Dear Professor Browning:

It was most thoughtful and gracious of you to forward a copy of the "Paul Ehrlich Centennial" symposium. I was actively reading the university library's copy when yours arrived, and I am delighted to have it for my own library.

I suppose you had in mind particularly the design of experiments on selective recombination, which are the main preoccupation of this laboratory, and which you had anticipated in your early trypanosome experiments.

Since 1908 there have been a number of not very credible reports on sexuality in trypanosomes. It occurs to me that the time might be ripe to reopen the question with a more comprehensive application of the same design. It would be appropriate to try to "cross" a larger variety of strains and species, to use various different drug-resistance markers, and so forth. Perhaps this has been done on a larger scale than was indicated in 1908. If not, I would earnestly ask that you consider the matter further: there would hardly be anyone more appropriately qualified.

Under separate cover I am sending another offprint that may interest you, this time of a talk at the dedication of Waksman's research Institute of ~~Biology~~ Microbiology, held last June. I wish I could also send you Dr. van Niel's article, but the book is now in print. I must express my wholehearted agreement with van Niel's closing paragraph, but also my discouragement at his hope, which is the contrast of Ehrlich's Institute and the present one.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics

1956